

# **Manufacturing Innovation Fund Advisory Board**

## ***December Meeting Minutes***

### **Department of Economic and Community Development**

December 21, 2017

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

450 Columbus Boulevard, Conference Room A Fourth Floor  
Hartford, Connecticut

#### **Attendance**

- Board Members Present: John Harrity, Don Balducci, Kelli Vallieres, Todd Pihl, Catherine Smith, John Zoldy, Emir Redzic
- Quorum: Yes
- Absent: Shane Eddy, Chris DiPentima, Beverly Dacey, Colin Cooper
- Stakeholders Present: Elliot Ginsberg, Tom Maloney, Todd Berch, Tracy Ariel
- Stakeholders via phone: Bernice Zampano, Bonnie DelConte
- DECD Staff: Barbara Fernandez, Carmen Molina-Rios and Toni Karnes

#### **Special Recognition**

Commissioner Smith began the meeting by providing special recognition to John Harrity as it was his last meeting as a MIF Board member. Members of the group each gave Mr. Harrity thanks for his efforts and insights that assisted the Board in achieving its mission.

#### **Minutes**

Meeting called to order by Chair Commissioner Catherine H. Smith at 9:05 am.

Commissioner Smith welcomed the board to the meeting. The Commissioner asked for a motion to accept the November Minutes. John Harrity made the motion and Don Balducci seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **2018 Meeting Schedule**

Commissioner Smith suggested that the group cancel the January meeting as the date was so close. She then moved that the group accept the proposed meeting schedule minus the January meeting. John Zoldy seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **Commission on Economic Competitiveness Meeting**

Commissioner Smith apprised the board of the Commission on Economic Competitiveness December meeting and noted that both she and Commissioner Scott Jackson from DOL presented at the meeting. She stated that her presentation focused on the work being performed with an emphasis on the supply chain and Commissioner Jackson's presentation concentrated on workforce demographics. She also advised the group that a new commission was formed named the Commission on Fiscal Stability & Economic Competitiveness. After some discussion, Mr. Harrity asked that the Board speak with the legislature whenever possible to advise them of what the MIF Board is doing as they don't know.

## **Annual Report**

Carmen Molina Rios reviewed the annual report to be sent to the legislature by January 1, 2018. She noted that the numbers were as of FY end June 30, 2017. Mr. Harrity noted that it was the best report that he had seen on Connecticut manufacturing in a long time. He also noted that it would be a good tool to help the legislature as they decide on future funding. After some discussion, Commissioner Smith stated that she was very happy with the progress that has been made. Commissioner then asked for a motion to accept the Annual Report – subject to minor modifications. John Harrity so moved and John Zoldy seconded. The motion passed.

## **CCAT**

Elliot Ginsberg provided an organizational overview of CCAT. He stated that the vision of CCAT is to be a national leader, committed to ensuring the success of the businesses that they serve. He noted that the mission of CCAT was to create and execute bold ideas advancing applied technologies, IT strategies, energy solutions, STEM education and career development that help manufacturers, academia, government and nonprofit organizations succeed.

Mr. Ginsberg then proceeded to review the funding report for CCAT activities for the period covering FY 2017 through FY 2019 for total of \$30,941,437. Mr. Ginsberg also provided an overview of the projects that go through the Advance Manufacturing Center noting that there was a 50 day average for projects from start to finish. In addition, Mr. Ginsberg provided a project distribution by town and a list of state owned equipment at the Advanced Manufacturing Center.

Finally, Mr. Ginsberg provided an update on the Hydrogen Fuel Cell Program, Advanced Composites and High Rate Additive Manufacturing Programs. After some discussion the vote on the Procedures and Guidelines for Advanced Composites was tabled. Regarding the High Rate Additive Manufacturing Program, Mr. Harrity asked if CCAT thought they would be competing with the UCONN Tech Park facility. Mr. Ginsberg responded that they were looking to complement the UCONN facility.

## **Other Business**

Commissioner Smith again thanked Mr. Harrity for his role on the Board and his ability to see the big picture. She read a proclamation from the Governor commending Mr. Harrity's commitment to the MIF fund and its endeavors. Todd Berch also read a proclamation from The Connecticut State Apprenticeship Council for his work on the Apprenticeship Training program. Mr. Harrity noted that he was leaving on a high note and that Governor Malloy had been good for manufacturing.

After additional discussion, Commissioner Smith wished everyone a great holiday and asked for a motion to adjourn. Todd Pihl moved the motion. Emir Redzic seconded. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 10:30.

Next Meeting Date February 8, 2018